

**Report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources regarding the
2014 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1116, Division VI: Home Base Iowa Act
January 28, 2015**

Sec. 35. REPORTING. Each licensing board, as defined in section 272C.1, shall file a report with the governor and the general assembly by January 31, 2015, on the substance of rules and procedures adopted to implement the provisions of this division of the Act.

Section 35: The proposed rule amendments were presented on October 3, 2014, to the stakeholder group that included representatives of the more than 3,400 certified water and wastewater operators and the representatives of the veterans and military service personnel transition efforts to civilian work. The group provided unanimous support for the rulemaking. The Notice of Intended Action was approved at the November 19, 2014 Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) meeting. The Notice was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 24, 2014. The agency representatives appeared before the Administrative Rules Review Committee on January 6, 2015. The public hearing was held on January 14, 2015, and the public comment period closed on January 15, 2015. There were no comments received. The adopted and filed rules will be presented to the EPC at its February 17th meeting for adoption, and are identical to the rules published in the Notice of Intended Action. Should the rules be approved, the publication date in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin will be March 18, 2015, and the effective date will be April 22, 2015.

Sec. 36. REPORT. Each licensing board, as defined in section 272C.1, shall file a report by January 1, 2015, with the chairpersons and ranking members of the house and senate standing committees on veterans affairs making recommendations related to expanding the professional licensing provisions of section 272C.4, subsection 12, to include the spouses of veterans.

Section 36: The Iowa Department of Natural Resources implements the program which certifies water operators and wastewater operators in Iowa. Certified water operators and wastewater operators are critical to protect the public health of Iowans, to protect the water quality in the state's rivers, lakes, and streams from untreated sewage, and to protect the significant monetary investment in the state's infrastructure through proper operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems. The opportunity for certification of anyone who meets the education, experience, and examination requirements already exists. Reciprocity is also available for people with prior certification in other states. There are more than 3,400 currently certified water and wastewater operators in Iowa.

Should a spouse of a veteran desire certification, the same avenues are open to them as to anyone, in that the same education, experience, and examination requirements must be met. Timeliness of application review is not an issue at all in our program, since all applications are reviewed within 48 hours of receipt. Examinations are given at six locations around the state as requested by the applicant during routine business hours, which affords the applicant the opportunity to take the examination on their schedule and at a location near their residence. The fees are the same for everyone. There is no need to expand the provisions of section 272C.4, subsection 12, in the operator certification program to the spouses of veterans.